

We claim:

1. An integrated welder, generator and compressor unit comprising:
 - a. a housing that at least partially contains components of said welder, generator and compressor;
 - b. an engine at least partially mounted in said housing;
 - c. an electric current generator at least partially mounted in said housing and at least partially connected to said engine to be at least partially driven thereby; and,
 - d. an electric air compressor at least partially mounted in said housing, said electric air compressor able to be at least partially powered by the current generated by said electric current generator when electrically connected to said electric current generator during the operation of said engine.
2. The unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said electric air compressor is able to be at least partially powered by an external power source.
3. The unit as defined in claim 2, including an electric circuit that controls power to said air compressor between said electric current generator and said external power source.
4. The unit as defined in claim 2, including an electric connector designed to connect to said external power source, said electric connector including a connector positioned on an exterior surface of said housing, an electric connector positioned in a compartment that is accessible from the exterior surface of said housing or an electric cord extending from the exterior surface of said housing.
5. The unit as defined in claim 3, including an electric connector designed to connect to said external power source, said electric connector including a connector positioned on an exterior surface of said housing, an electric connector positioned in a compartment that is accessible from the exterior surface of said housing or an electric cord extending from the exterior surface of said housing.

6. The unit as defined in claim 1, including a receiver tank at least partially mounted in said housing, said receiver tank fluidly connected to said air compressor.

7. The unit as defined in claim 5, including a receiver tank at least partially mounted in said housing, said receiver tank fluidly connected to said air compressor.

8. The unit as defined in claim 6, including a pressure monitor to monitor a pressure in said receiver tank.

9. The unit as defined in claim 7, including a pressure monitor to monitor a pressure in said receiver tank.

10. The unit as defined in claim 8, wherein said pressure monitor generates a control signal to activate or deactivate said air compressor based at least partially on a detected air pressure level in said receiver tank.

11. The unit as defined in claim 9, wherein said pressure monitor generates a control signal to activate or deactivate said air compressor based at least partially on a detected air pressure level in said receiver tank.

12. The unit as defined in claim 1, including an air pressure gauge on an exterior surface of said housing.

13. The unit as defined in claim 11, including an air pressure gauge on an exterior surface of said housing.

14. The unit as defined in claim 1, including a compressed air access on an exterior surface of said housing, said air access designed to be connected to an air powered accessory.

15. The unit as defined in claim 13, including a compressed air access on an exterior

surface of said housing, said air access designed to be connected to an air powered accessory.

16. The unit as defined in claim 1, including a pressure valve, said pressure valve generating a control signal when said pressure valve is open or closed, said control signal at least partially controlling the activation or deactivation of said air compressor.

17. The unit as defined in claim 15, including a pressure valve, said pressure valve generating a control signal when said pressure valve is open or closed, said control signal at least partially controlling the activation or deactivation of said air compressor.

18. The unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said air compressor is located in a front section of said housing and rearward of a front panel of said housing.

19. The unit as defined in claim 17, wherein said air compressor is located in a front section of said housing and rearward of a front panel of said housing.

20. The unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said power generated by said generator is a substantially constant voltage source for use by said air compressor.

21. The unit as defined in claim 19, wherein said power generated by said generator is a substantially constant voltage source for use by said air compressor.

22. The unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said housing includes at least one electrical outlet for use by welding equipment and at least one air outlet for use by air powered tools.

23. The unit as defined in claim 21, wherein said housing includes at least one electrical outlet for use by welding equipment and at least one air outlet for use by air powered tools.

24. The unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said housing includes wheels to enable said housing to be rolled over a ground surface.

25. The unit as defined in claim 23, wherein said housing includes wheels to enable said housing to be rolled over a ground surface.

26. A method of providing compressed air from an engine welding comprising:

a. providing a housing that is at least partially contains an engine at least partially mounted in said housing;

b. providing an electric current generator that is at least partially mounted in said housing and at least partially connected to said engine to be at least partially driven thereby;

c. providing an electric air compressor at least partially mounted in said housing, said electric air compressor able to be at least partially powered by the current generated by said electric current generator when electrically connected to said electric current generator during the operation of said engine.

27. The method as defined in claim 26, including the step of at least partially powering said air compressor by an external power source.

28. The method as defined in claim 26, including the step of controlling power to said air compressor between said electric current generator and said external power source.

29. The method as defined in claim 27, including the step of controlling power to said air compressor between said electric current generator and said external power source.

30. The method as defined in claim 26, including an electric connector designed to connect to said external power source, said electric connector including a connector positioned on an exterior surface of said housing, an electric connector positioned in a compartment that is accessible from the exterior surface of said housing or an electric cord extending from the exterior surface of said housing.

31. The method as defined in claim 29, including an electric connector designed to

connect to said external power source, said electric connector including a connector positioned on an exterior surface of said housing, an electric connector positioned in a compartment that is accessible from the exterior surface of said housing or an electric cord extending from the exterior surface of said housing.

32. The method as defined in claim 26, including the step of providing a receiver tank at least partially mounted in said housing, said receiver tank fluidly connected to said air compressor.

33. The method as defined in claim 31, including the step of providing a receiver tank at least partially mounted in said housing, said receiver tank fluidly connected to said air compressor.

34. The method as defined in claim 26, including the step of monitoring a pressure in said receiver tank.

35. The method as defined in claim 33, including the step of monitoring a pressure in said receiver tank.

36. The method as defined in claim 34, including the step of generating a control signal based upon a detected pressure in said receiver tank to activate or deactivate said air compressor.

37. The method as defined in claim 35, including the step of generating a control signal based upon a detected pressure in said receiver tank to activate or deactivate said air compressor.

38. The method as defined in claim 26, including the step of providing an air pressure gauge on an exterior surface of said housing.

39. The method as defined in claim 37, including the step of providing an air pressure gauge on an exterior surface of said housing.

40. The method as defined in claim 26, including the step of providing a compressed air

access on an exterior surface of said housing, said air access designed to be connected to an air powered accessory.

41. The method as defined in claim 39, including the step of providing a compressed air access on an exterior surface of said housing, said air access designed to be connected to an air powered accessory.

42. The method as defined in claim 26, including the step of providing power generated by said generator that is a substantially constant voltage source for use by said air compressor.

43. The method as defined in claim 41, including the step of providing power generated by said generator that is a substantially constant voltage source for use by said air compressor.

44. The method as defined in claim 26, wherein said housing includes at least one electrical outlet for use by welding equipment and at least one air outlet for use by air powered tools.

45. The method as defined in claim 43, wherein said housing includes at least one electrical outlet for use by welding equipment and at least one air outlet for use by air powered tools.

46. The method as defined in claim 26, wherein said housing includes wheels to enable said housing to be rolled over a ground surface.

47. The method as defined in claim 45, wherein said housing includes wheels to enable said housing to be rolled over a ground surface.